LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and the listing of claims in the application.

Claims Listing:

1 – 12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

adjusting the size of aggregated data packets based at least on the congestion of a transmitting network device.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 and wherein said adjusting comprises:

aggregating in a buffer at least two small messages received from an upper layer into a packet;

providing said packet to a pending queue;

passing said packets to a network device; and

selecting said packets from said pending queue or said buffer depending on whether or not said pending queue is empty.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14 and also comprising indicating ~~the status of~~ a reception status for ~~of~~ said packets.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 14 and wherein said passing operates at a rate related to network congestion.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 and wherein said network congestion may be any one of the following: transmitter congestion, receiver congestion and congestion of network elements.

18. (New) A method comprising:

aggregating in a buffer at least two small messages received from an upper layer into a packet;

providing said packet to a pending queue;

passing said packets to a network device; and

selecting said packets from said pending queue or said buffer depending on whether or not said pending queue is empty.

19. (New) A method according to claim 18 and also comprising indicating a reception status for said packets.

20. (New) A method according to claim 18 and wherein said passing operates at a rate related to network congestion.

21. (New) A method according to claim 18 and wherein said network congestion may be any one of the following: transmitter congestion, receiver congestion and congestion of network elements.